

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec 2.4

NND 968039

By ST/PSW Date 3/9/98

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ACTION: Amembassy NEW DELHI

STATE _____

EXDIS

SUBJECT: Secretary's Letter to Foreign Minister Swaran Singh

REF: NEW DELHI 1159

1. Ambassador should seek early opportunity to present following letter from Secretary to Foreign Minister Swaran Singh.

QUOTE Dear Mr. Minister:

Ambassador Keating has told me of your frank and detailed discussion with Senator Cooper on the subject of Indo-American relations. I was extremely gratified that Senator Cooper as a former Ambassador and friend of India and an influential member of our Congress was able to go into these matters with you. I was, however, deeply disturbed at one portion of your conversation which seemed to imply that the United States Government was interfering in the Indian elections, either directly or through the American business community in India. There is absolutely no ~~substance~~ ^{basis} to these allegations. The United States Government

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INC:ACEQuainton/emg

DRAFTING DATE: 1/26/71

TEL. EXT. 21289

APPROVED BY: The Secretary

CLEARANCES:

NEA/INC: DTSchneider

NEA: CVan Hollen

NEA/JJSisco

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

SS -

INR/DDC - Amb. Coerr

S/S - Mr. Eliot

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E.O. 12958, as amended
June 9, 2005

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~~xx~~ loans are strictly monitored to insure that they are used only for the trade and economic development purposes for which they are lent.

I should also like to assure you that the contacts which our Embassy personnel are maintaining with politicians of all parties during the election period are solely with the view of keeping informed about developments in India and are consistent with the policy we follow in other countries. These contacts have no ulterior motive and do not in any way indicate a United States Government preference for one party or another. In fact they are comparable with the contacts your Embassy properly maintains with leaders of the various political parties and groups in the United ~~States~~ States.

I hope that these comments will dispel any misunderstanding that may exist about this Administration's attitude toward India. We look with admiration on your ~~xxx~~ country's dedication to democracy which provides an important example

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ACTION:

to all the countries of Asia. It is, I firmly believe, in our interest as it is in yours that the electoral process which gives Indian democracy such vitality be carried on without external interference from any quarter.

I ~~am~~ have asked Ambassador Keating, to whom I look to manage all aspects of US relations with India, to deliver this ~~my~~ letter personally so that he may discuss its contents with you as you desire.

With best wishes,

Sincerely, William P. Rogers UNQUOTE

2. Ambassador should advise Foreign Minister that we would appreciate receiving any specific allegations about contributions which we would then be able to investigate at once.

3. In discussing this letter Ambassador should deal with specific allegation about contributions to Jana Sangh, pointing out USG would have no reason for wishing to support this particular party. Ambassador should acknowledge that Embassy officers have talked with Jana Sangh leaders, but should

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ACTION: point out this has no more sinister implications than
talks with
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ which Indian Embassy officers have had from
prominent Democratic Senators and Congressmen.

4X. You should also discuss with Foreign Minister the
dangers implicit in allegations of US interference
becoming public during election campaign. Such
allegations whether directed against USG directly
or implying connection with business funding would
be damaging to our relations and our mutual interests.

As Secretary's letter makes clear we categorically
repudiate the charges leveled against us.

~~and any further
official recognition of these allegations, without any
evidence to substantiate them would reflect on good faith
of Secretary himself, whose assurances are contained in
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

END

ROGERS

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